

Egremont Water Department --- Typical Water Use at Home

A typical home uses up to about 100 gallons per day per person. This is an estimate, but it gives you an idea of how the little things you do in your house add up to larger amounts of water being used. If you have newer water-saving devices in your home you will probably be using less than this amount.

Please realize this is only an estimate. First, this does not take into account everything you use water for, such as cooking, dog washing, and other outdoor water use. Nor is there any accounting for leaks in toilets and faucets. Water use for all activities varies by individual. You might take a 60-second shower, but your child might take 15 minutes. You might leave the water running when you brush your teeth, but your spouse might not. Also, the age of your house and fixtures makes a huge difference in water use. There is a large push to install modern, water-efficient toilets, faucets, and dishwashers. These water-efficient devices save significant amounts of water and electricity.

Bath	A "full tub" varies, of course, but 36 gallons is a good average amount. <u>Tip:</u> Taking a shower instead of a bath should save water.
Shower	Old showers use up to 5 gallons of water per minute. Water-saving shower heads produce about 2 gallons per minute. <u>Tip:</u> Taking a shorter shower using a low-flow showerhead saves water.
Teeth brushing	Less than 1 gallon. Newer bath faucets use about 1 gallon per minute, whereas older models use over 2 gallons. <u>Tip:</u> Turn the faucet off when brushing teeth.
Hands/face washing	~1 gallon <u>Tip:</u> Turn the faucet off before drying your hands and face. If you don't mind a brisk wash, don't run the faucet until it gets hot before using it. Installing a faucet-head aerator will also reduce the water flow rate.
Face/leg shaving	~1 gallon <u>Tip:</u> Turn the faucet off when shaving.
Dishwasher	6-16 gallons. Newer, EnergyStar models use 6 gallons or less per wash cycle, whereas older dishwashers might use up to 16 gallons per cycle. <u>Tip:</u> EnergyStar dishwashers not only save a lot of water but also save electricity.
Dishwashing by hand	About 8-27 gallons. This all depends on how efficient you are at hand-washing dishes. Newer kitchen faucets use about 1.5-2 gallons per minute, whereas older faucets use more. <u>Tip:</u> Efficient hand-washing techniques include installing an aerator in your faucet head and scraping food off, soaking dishes in a basin of soapy water before getting started, and not letting the water run while you wash every dish. It's best to have two basins to work in-one filled with hot, soapy water, the other with warm water for a rinse.
Clothes washer	~25 gallons/load for newer washers. Older models might use about 40 gallons per load. <u>Tip:</u> EnergyStar clothes washers not only save a lot of water but also save electricity.
Toilet flush	~3 gallons. Most new toilets use 1.6 gallons per flush, but many older toilets use about 4 gallons. <u>Tip:</u> Check for toilet leaks. It is best to install a new low-flow toilet.
Glasses of water you drink	~8 oz. per glass (not counting water for pets!)